

2. (Two Times Amended) The fireplace grate of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a base defining a cavity and further includes a cage member positioned on the base to further enclose the compartment.

3. The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the cage member is hinged to the base.

4. The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the base is formed by the plurality of grate members connected by the plurality of cross members, the grate members including a U-shaped portion for supporting the firelog.

5. The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the base is formed by the plurality of grate members connected by the plurality of cross members, the grate members including a V-shaped portion for supporting the firelog.

6. The fireplace grate of claim 1, wherein the firelog is a gel log.

7. The fireplace grate of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of compartments defined by the frame for holding a plurality of firelogs.

8. The fireplace grate of claim 3, further comprising a removable handle for moving the hinged cage member.

9. The fireplace grate of claim 2, wherein the cage member includes a hinged door.

10. The fireplace grate of claim 1, wherein the firelog is supported by at least four grate members of the frame.

11. A fireplace grate comprising a frame including a plurality of grate members and a plurality of cross members, the frame defining a platform and a substantially enclosed compartment depending therefrom, the compartment operative to hold a starter material and to prevent direct contact between the starter material and wood or ceramic logs placed on top of the platform.

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12. A fireplace grate, said fireplace grate comprising:

a base formed by a plurality of grate members and a plurality of cross members, said base defining a platform and a substantially enclosed compartment depending therefrom, said base for supporting a firelog in the compartment;

at least one pivot arm; and

at least one ceramic log pivotally attached to the base by the at least one pivot arm, wherein the at least one ceramic log pivots between a first and second position, wherein the first position permits the insertion of the firelog into the compartment of the base, and wherein the second position encloses the compartment and prevents direct contact between the firelog and wood or ceramic logs placed on top of the platform of the base.

13. A fireplace grate, said fireplace grate comprising:

a base formed by a plurality of grate members and a plurality of cross members, said base defining a platform and a substantially enclosed compartment depending therefrom, said base for supporting a firelog in the compartment; and

at least one ceramic log hinged to the base, wherein the at least one ceramic log hinges between a first and second position, wherein the first position permits the insertion of the firelog into the compartment of the base, and wherein the second position encloses the compartment and prevents direct contact between the firelog and wood or ceramic logs placed on top of the platform of the base.

14. The fireplace grate of claim 13 wherein the base further includes

a supporting member extending across the bottom of the compartment.

15. The fireplace grate of claim 12 wherein the base further includes

a supporting member extending across the bottom of the compartment.

16. The fireplace grate of claim 11 wherein the frame further includes

a supporting member extending across the bottom of the enclosed compartment.

17. The fireplace grate of claim 1 wherein the frame further includes  
a supporting member extending across the bottom of the compartment.

18. The fireplace grate of claim 1 wherein at least two of the cross members are positioned on the platform proximate an opening in the platform to the compartment.

19. (Amended) A fireplace grate comprising:

a base including

a first plurality of grate members spaced in a parallel relation, and

a first plurality of cross members linking the first plurality of grate members,

wherein the base forms a platform for supporting a log and a cavity depending from the platform for supporting a firelog or starter material.

20. The fireplace grate of claim 18 wherein the fireplace grate further includes

a cage member including

a second plurality of grate members spaced in a parallel relation, and

a second plurality of cross members linking the second plurality of grate members,

wherein the cage member encloses the cavity to form an enclosed compartment that separates the logs from the firelog or starter material.

21. The fireplace grate of claim 18 wherein the base further includes

a supporting member extending across the bottom of the cavity.

22. The fireplace grate of claims 18 further comprising:

a ceramic log connected to the base, wherein the ceramic log moves between a first position and a second position, wherein the first position permits insertion of the firelog or the starter material into the cavity, and wherein the second position encloses the cavity and prevents contact between the firelog and wood or ceramic logs placed on top of the platform.